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TUESDAY
MARCH 2, 1954

Laurie Norstad called me on the telephone this morning to say he attached great importance to my talking to Senators Symington and Bridges and [redacted] he would try to arrange for them to meet me at ten o'clock Friday morning upon their return from Madrid.

I talked to Blankenhorn, who reported to me his conversation yesterday with François-Poncet, which is summarized in the following telegram to the Department:

"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 165. PRIORITY.

"RPTD INFO: HICOG BONN. 645.

"LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

"Blankenhorn informed me last night oral message from Chancellor to Bidault stating Adenauer's desire meet French FONMIN on Saar before Chancellor's trip to Greece next Monday had been conveyed by Blankenhorn to François-Poncet yesterday afternoon. François-Poncet discussed matter with Bidault at seven o'clock and later told Blankenhorn Bidault could not spare much time but would see Chancellor if latter came Paris this week end or even Monday morning.

"Blankenhorn expects formal letter from Adenauer to Bidault confirming above oral message to be delivered Quai d'Orsay this afternoon. He also recommending this morning to Adenauer and Hallstein that Adenauer route his Greek trip via Paris and tell German press he has offered meet Bidault this week end.

"When I talked to Maurice Schumann at lunchtime yesterday he told me Bidault did not want to meet Chancellor this week and thought there would be plenty of time after his return from his Greece-Turkey trip ~~on March 26. I made strongest~~ possible expostulations on dangers such delay.

"I hope this week end meeting will take place. ~~At any rate public announcement~~ or leak regarding Adenauer's desire see Bidault will be helpful in forcing French hand. Bidault expressly asked that Chancellor not announce they would be

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discussing Saar agreement. I will not attempt to fathom reason for this attitude. BRUCE."

Paul and Christiane Reynaud came to lunch with Evangeline and myself. He is [redacted] skeptical about Laniel making up his mind really to push this debate and said he was going to raise the question at a Cabinet meeting this afternoon. I told him of what was happening in relation to the offer by Adenauer to meet Bidault on the Saar problem. Later on, I talked to Maurice Schumann.

This afternoon I sent the following telegram to the Department:

"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 166. NIACT.

"FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY.

"I have the impression from talks with Maurice Schumann and others that Bidault and Laniel for different reasons are attempting to evade difficult decision to bring EDC to vote before Easter. This impression is strengthened by Bidault's initial and perhaps renewed reluctance to talk to Chancellor this week and by repeated references in Government circles to "impossibility" of opening debate before mid-April.

"If, as I believe, this week is the decisive one for the resolve to move before Geneva, we must be ready to bring maximum desirable pressure on Bidault and especially on Laniel. The next step must await Bidault's response to the Secretary which Schumann said could be expected today or tomorrow. But I think Department should be considering not only a prompt reply to whatever Bidault answers but also a communication in the absence of the Secretary from the President to Laniel tactfully implying that our confidence in his protestations over the past eight months depends on this decision. Such a message might well be followed up by sending MacArthur to see Laniel as latter requested during Berlin Conference.

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"These demarches will be facilitated if we can tell French officially within next day or two that US assurances will be ready by March 12. I am working uncertain basis without having this in hand.

"I had lunch with Reynaud today. During it I was called out and informed from reliable source that Bidault was again disposed to avoid meeting Adenauer before latter's departure for Greece and to have Saar conversations conducted for present through subordinates. Reynaud has undertaken to see Laniel and Bidault on this subject this afternoon and tell them it would be catastrophic to EDC chances of early ratification to follow such course of action. Meanwhile I have sent direct personal appeal to Bidault about this affair.

"Also, I told Reynaud of our concern over Laniel's hesitation to accept principle of European elected assembly as demanded by Mollet in recent Brussels speech. He had talked to Mollet yesterday regarding this, and said he would attack Laniel this afternoon for his attitude which consisted of trying to win 40 extremely doubtful URAS votes by compromises which would certainly cost him at least 80 Socialist votes.

"I am seeing Pinay tonight. I cannot overemphasize precarious situation we are in, facing an irresolute government which would infinitely prefer as usual to procrastinate hoping like Mr. Micawber for some outside power to save it from its own irresponsibility. BRUCE."

Preston Grover and Harold Callender came to see me successively this afternoon and are gravely concerned over the possibility of a postponement of the debate. David Schoenbrun is weaving his way in and out of my life on the same topic

Tonight I had dinner with Margaret Biddle and Pinay at her house. Pinay talked with the utmost frankness. However, as he said he was talking to me on a friendly basis and was certain to say things which he would rather not have

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repeated, I have not felt free to report his conversation in detail but will send a telegram off on it tomorrow and also possibly write a personal letter to Livie Merchant. I am convinced that the timing of the debate depends on action by Laniel, who may in many respects be an excellent man but has created the general impression that he has his eye to the main chance of domestic politics rather than to France's foreign policy.

Pinay thinks it would not be necessary, before a vote on EDC, to have an agreement from the six foreign governments for setting up an Assembly elected by European suffrage. He claims that, in spite of Mollet's frequent references to this necessity, Mollet would support the Treaty even in the absence of having obtained such satisfaction. This view of Pinay's is not shared by many other politicians but it is true that most of them feel an agreement of this kind would lose many Rightist votes for EDC. Teitgen and other MRP leaders must also be consulted in this connection and we will have to devote considerable attention to it in the next few days.

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